IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of	:	Attorney Docket No. 2006_1186A
Yasushi YAGI et al.	:	**Confirmation No. 3846**
Serial No. 10/587,881	:	Group Art Unit 3739
Filed August 1, 2006	:	Examiner Philip R. Smith
ENDOSCOPE SYSTEM	:	**Mail Stop: AMENDMENT**

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
   P.O. Box 1450
   Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the [first] election of species requirement, as forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action mailed January 27, 2010, Applicants hereby elect the species of endoscope of "[01a] a probe-type endoscope, as in claim(s) 17." It is noted that claims 1-16 are considered generic, and accordingly, claims 1-17 are readable on the elected species [01a].

Pursuant to the "second election of species requirement", as set forth on pages 3-6 of the Office Action, Applicants hereby elect the species of image generation unit of "[07i] having a feature region cutout unit wherein the predetermined energy is determined based on a degree of deviation between a plurality of control points selected from a first image taken by said camera and a plurality of control points, in a second image taken by said camera, which respectively correspond to the plurality of control points selected from the first image, as in claim(s) 9, 14-15." Claims 1 and 16-18 are considered by the Examiner to be generic, and accordingly, claims 1, 9 and 14-18 are readable on the elected species [07i].

The above elections are made with traverse. It is noted that the present application is a U.S. national stage application and, accordingly, unity of invention practice is properly applicable to this application.

Therefore, reference is made to MPEP § 1850(II), wherein it is stated that "[u]nity of invention has to be considered in the first place only in relation to the independent claims in an international application and not the dependent claims." Also, "[i]f the independent claims avoid the prior art and satisfy the requirement of unity of invention, no problem of lack of unity arises in